

Serial No. 09/890,143
Docket No. SHIG 19990241
Amendment C under Rule 116

REMARKS

Figures 1, 2, 3, 6, 8 and 9 have been amended in the manner proposed by the Examiner, and it is believed that these amendments overcome the objections thereto.

Independent claims 8 and 11 have been amended to clarify that the cutting step also roughens a surface, in light of the Examiner's comments in cipher 10 of the Action.

Turning to the specific art rejections, and considering first the rejection of claims 8-10 as obvious from Murakami et al. '164 in view of Murakami et al. '655 and Murakami '867, as acknowledged by the Examiner, the '164 and '655 Patents teach the equivalence of cutting and smoothing. In Applicant's claimed invention, the second step is not a smoothing step, but rather a roughening step. Independent claim 8 has been amended to clarify this. Thus, no combination of the '164, '655 and '867 Patents could achieve or render obvious claim 8, or any of the claims dependent thereon.

Similar comments apply to the rejection of claim 11, which has been rejected as obvious from the '164, '655, '867 Patents and Itoh et al. (US Patent No. 5,319,695). Itoh et al. has been cited as teaching a film of molybdenum on a multilayer film. Even assuming *arguendo* Itoh et al. is as the Examiner represents, the more basic and essential distinctions, namely, that the second step cuts and roughens a portion of the surface, is not taught by the primary '164, '655 and '867 combination, and this missing teaching is not supplied by Itoh et al. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 11 likewise is in error.

The foregoing amendments make no claims changes that would require further search by the Examiner, the Examiner having already considered the essential limitations in the earlier

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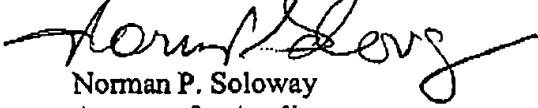
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prosecution. Accordingly, entry of the foregoing Amendment, and allowance of the Application, are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to EXAMINER CHIH CHENG G. KAO of the United States Patent and Trademark Office at facsimile number (703) 872-9319, on September 2, 2003 from Tucson, Arizona.

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